Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /064 W

-----047358 260112Z /75

R 251225Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8876 INFO USICA WASHDC SECDEF WASHDC

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STATE PASS FBIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, PINT, LE, PEPR, SY

SUBJECT: NEW RADIO STATION IN ZGHARTA

1. SUPPORTERS OF EX-PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH HAVE FOUNDED LEBANON'S FOURTH RADIO STATION IN IHDIN NEAR ZGHARTA, NORTH LEBANON. TRIAL TRANSMISSIONS BEGAN JULY 20, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT. CALLED "THE VOICE OF UNITED LEBANON," THE NEW STATION JOINS "RADIO LEBANON" (OFFICIAL), "THE VOICE OF LEBANON (PHALANGE), AND "THE VOICE OF ARAB LEBANON" (MURABITOUN). DECLARED POLITICAL AIM OF "UNITED LEBANON" IS TO COMPETE WITH THE PHALANGISTS, COMBAT PARTITION, AND REPORT THE LEBANESE PROBLEM CLEARLY. FATHER YOUSSEF YAMMINE IS DIRECTOR.

2. TECHNICAL DATA: STATION HAS ERECTED A 104-METER ANTENNA IN IHDIN, VILLAGE WHERE TONY FRANJIYAH WAS SLAIN, AND POSSESSES 100-KILOWATT TRANSMITTER, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. BROADCAST FREQUENCY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEDIUM WAVE BAND IS 625 KHZ. Z SHORT WAVE CAPABILITY IS ALSO REPORTED; NO DETAILS.

3. COMMENT: PLANS FOR A RADIO IN NORTH LEBANON DATE FROM LATE 1977, WHEN CHRISTIAN SOURCES REPORTED PHALANGIST EFFORTS TO IMPROVE "VOICE OF LEBANON" COVERAGE IN NORTH OR PROVIDE A NEW TRANSMITTING

FACILITY THERE IN COOPERATION WITH FRANJIYAH. ALIGNMENTS HAVE SINCE SHIFTED. THERE IS SPECULATION TODAY THAT SYRIANS HAVE HELPED ESTABLISH NEW STATION AS VOICE OF FRANJIYAH AND HENCE TO A DEGREE OF ASAD IN LEBANON, BUT WE CANNOT CONFIRM THIS.

DECON 7/30/80. PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Subject: NEW RADIO STATION IN ZGHARTA

TAGS: ETEL, PINT, PEPR, LE, SY

To: STATE Type: TE

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